



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National
Historical Park

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Valley Forge National Historical Park – News Release

For Immediate Release
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Come Celebrate George Washington's Birthday at Valley Forge National Historical Park February 15-17

Valley Forge, PA, January 16, 2003 – American Indians of the Oneida Nation, Boy Scouts, costumed interpreters, and reenactors from throughout the Delaware Valley will join together at Valley Forge National Historical Park for three days of festivities to celebrate the birthday of George Washington and to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

Festivities begin on Saturday, February 15 with live drilling, marching, and camp life demonstrations by members of the 6th Pennsylvania Regiment at Washington's Headquarters. The American Indians of the Oneida Nation will also return to Valley Forge on February 15, for a two-day program, to educate visitors about their role as the first allies of the colonists in the Revolution. Oneida Indians served as soldiers, riflemen, and artillerymen in the Continental Army. The program will include live artillery firing demonstrations every half hour through 1 p.m.

"The Oneida Indians have many links to the 1777-78 encampment at Valley Forge," stated Brian Patterson, Bear Clan representative to the Oneida Nation Men's Council and Clan Mothers. "According to Oneida Oral tradition, Polly Cooper, an Oneida woman, stayed to help the soldiers and to teach them how to prepare nutritional and medicinal food. Refusing to take money in payment, Cooper accepted a shawl as a token of Washington's gratitude."

Additionally, the Boy Scouts of America, Cradle of Liberty Council, will be hosting their 92nd annual Pilgrimage and Encampment at the park. Scouting events will be taking place from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. all around the park on Saturday, February 15. Visitors are welcome to stop by during their tour of the park and observe the scouts in action.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Starting at 10 a.m., Sunday, February 16 and running until 4 p.m., members of the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment will be at the Muhlenberg Huts demonstrating and explaining how they learned to perfect their trade while at Valley Forge. They will be performing live demonstrations of drilling, marching, and musket skills. Formal demonstrations will be taking place at 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. The members of the Oneida Nation will also be providing free artillery demonstrations on February 16th, at Artillery Park: at 12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The park will continue the weekend celebration on Monday, February 17th, with a program for children between the ages of 6 and 12, where they will have the opportunity to learn how to march and drill the way General Washington's Army did at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777 - 1778. The program will conclude with a group march from the Welcome Center up to the Muhlenberg Huts, where participants will have a chance to witness a live musket demonstration.

On Monday afternoon, Valley Forge National Historical Park interpreters will be presenting a public program about General Washington, Military Commander-in-Chief. The program will begin at 2 p.m. in the Education Center and will discuss Washington's role as the Continental Army General, with particular focus on what he did to help win the Revolutionary War.

"Because of the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution, this is going to be a particularly exciting celebration this year," commented Superintendent Arthur Stewart. "There are multiple activities, for people of all ages happening around the park all weekend."

A FREE shuttle bus will be running throughout the park all weekend. Visitors can park their cars at the Welcome Center, tour the new exhibit, "Determined to Persevere", browse the expanded "Encampment Store", and board a shuttle bus to tour the park at their leisure.

Schedule:

Saturday, February 15, 2003 -

This Was His Day – 6th Pennsylvania Regiment (Washington's Headquarters)

- Encampment - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Artillery, Warriors and Rangers – The American Indians of the Oneida Nation (Artillery Park)

- Encampment - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Live Artillery Demonstrations – 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Every half hour

Sunday, February 16, 2003 -

A Soldier's Salute to General Washington – 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment (Muhlenberg Huts)

- Encampment – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Demonstrations - 11:00 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm

Artillery, Warriors and Rangers – The American Indians of the Oneida Nation (Artillery Park)

- Encampment - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Live Artillery Demonstrations - 12:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m.

Monday, February 17, 2003 –

Young Soldiers for Washington's Army – Interactive Children's Program (Welcome Center)

- Activity – 1 hour program convening at 11 a.m. in front of the Education Center at the Welcome Center - for Children 6 to 12 years of age

(Please wear walking shoes and dress appropriately for the weather)

George Washington as Military Commander-in-Chief – 1 Hour Lecture/Discussion (Education Center)

- Activity – 1 hour program beginning at 2 p.m.

About Valley Forge National Historical Park

Valley Forge NHP educates present and future generations of Americans about one of the most defining events in our nation's history by preserving the natural and cultural resources that commemorate the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777-78. Valley Forge NHP is working in partnership with the National Center for the American Revolution to plan and develop the nation's first museum dedicated to telling the entire story of the American Revolution.

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